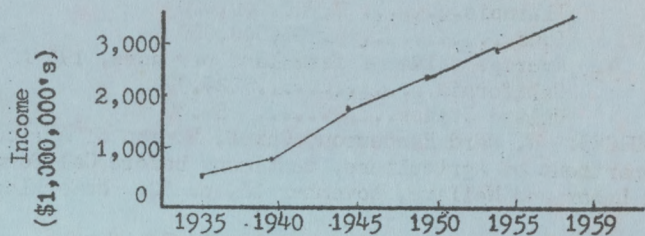


# CALIFORNIA FARM FACTS

I. In California, agriculture is big business....and getting bigger all the time.

A. Cash income of growers has risen to more than three billion dollars a year.

Year	Growers' cash receipts
1935	\$ 566,177,000
1940	651,116,000
1945	1,872,286,000
1950	2,311,000,000
1955	2,662,300,000
1959	3,034,617,000



SOURCES: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA, Cash Receipts from Farming, 1924-1944, Washington, D.C. January, 1946. Idem, "Cash Receipts and Value of Home Consumption, 1943-1950," n.p., n.d. Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, State Estimates of Farm Income, 1949-1959, Washington, August, 1960.

B. California has surpassed Texas and Iowa as the leading farm State in the U.S.

State	Farm Income, 1959
California	\$3,034,617,000
Texas	2,364,393,000.
Iowa	2,363,597,000
Illinois	1,956,567,000
Minnesota	1,410,899,000

SOURCE: Agricultural Marketing Service, op. cit., p. 50.

C. Far more workers are employed in agriculture than any other California industry.

Industry	Employees, October, 1959
Agriculture	408,660 <sup>a</sup>
Construction	311,600
Aircraft	241,900
Food processing	181,300
Electrical	149,600

a. Does not include 150,460 self-employed farmers and unpaid family workers.

SOURCE: California Department of Industrial Relations, "California Labor Statistics Bulletin," October, 1959, pp. 5-6. California Department of Employment, Division of Research and Statistics, unpublished data.

II. Agriculture in California is intensive and heavily capitalized.

A. Nearly a quarter of all the irrigated land in the U.S. is in California.

	U.S., 1954	California, 1954
Acres of cropland, total	393,606,000	10,219,000
Acres of cropland irrigated	29,484,000	7,049,000
Percent of cropland, irrigated	7.5%	69.0%

SOURCE: C.O. McCorkle, A Statistical Picture of California's Agriculture. California Agricultural Extension Service Circular 459, Berkeley, 1957, pp. 5-6.

B. California farms "are the most highly mechanized in the world and are becoming more so every year."\*

Type of Equipment	Number on California farms	
	1945	1954
Tractors	76,113	149,000
Motor Trucks	85,700	130,000
Milking machines	NA	16,000
Grain combines	4,529	10,000
Cotton pickers	NA	5,000
Hay balers	NA	8,000

NA: Not Available.

SOURCE: \*James Houseberg, Director, Agricultural Department, California State Chamber of Commerce, testimony before California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Labor and Welfare, November 16, 1959, pp. 31-32. McCorkle, op. cit., p. 13.



C. Capitalization is high.

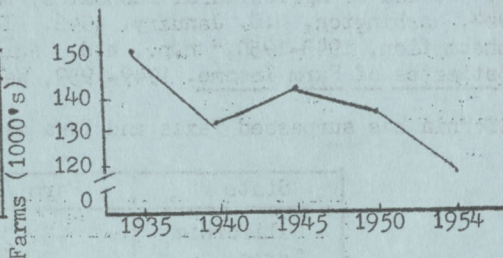
1. Average investment per farm, 1958:  
California.....\$81,500  
United States.....\$24,500
2. Average investment per farm employee, California, 1959: \$28,400.
3. Total valuation of farm real estate, 1959:  
California.....\$11,600,000,000  
Texas.....11,200,000,000  
Illinois..... 8,900,000,000  
Iowa..... 8,100,000,000
4. Average value of farm land per acre, 1954:  
California.....\$224.99  
United States..... 84.37

SOURCES: W. Ward Henderson, Chief, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, California Department of Agriculture, testimony before California Senate Fact Finding Committee on Labor and Welfare, November 16, p. 20. McCorkle, op. cit., p. 8.

III. The "family farm" is disappearing in California.

A. Farms are growing fewer...

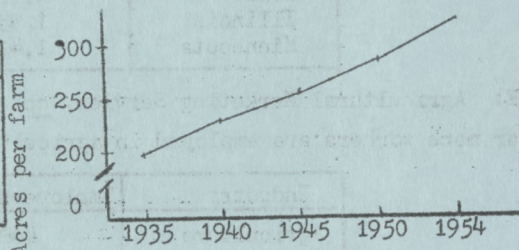
Year	Farms in California
1935	150,360
1940	132,658
1945	138,917
1950	137,168
1954	123,074



SOURCE: McCorkle, op. cit., p. 7.

B. ....and they are growing larger.

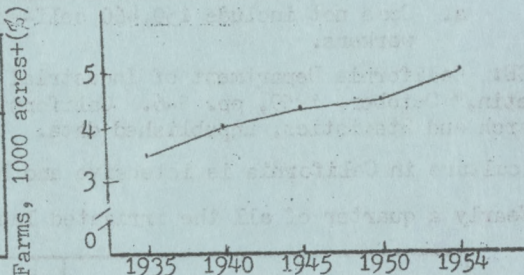
Year	Acres per Farm
1935	202.4
1940	230.1
1945	252.3
1950	266.9
1954	307.1



SOURCE: Ibid.

C. The growth of very large, or corporation-type, farming enterprises has been particularly striking.

Year	Percent of farms 1000 acres or more
1935	3.5%
1940	4.0
1945	4.3
1950	4.5
1954	5.1



IV. Through climatic, soil, and other advantages, California dominates the nation's production of most labor-intensive crops.

A. California production as percent of United States total, 1958:

- Berries, 40%
- Vegetables, processing, 38%
- Fruits, nuts, and grapes, 37%
- Vegetables and melons, fresh market, 30%

SOURCE: W. Ward Henderson, op. cit., p. 22.

B. California production of fruits and vegetables, as percent of U.S. total, 1958.

Crop	Percent	Crop	Percent	Crop	Percent	
Almonds.....	100.0	Prunes .....	98.6	Garlic.....	84.4	SOURCE: Henry Schacht, "Farm Facts." San Francisco, November, 1959.
Artichokes....	100.0	Dates .....	98.5	Apricots .....	83.3	
Olives.....	99.8	Persimmons .....	96.2	Honeydew melons .....	76.9	
Nectarines....	99.8	Walnuts .....	92.2	Tomatoes.....	59.2	
Pomegranates..	99.3	Brussels sprouts...	91.3	Celery.....	58.7	
Figs .....	99.1	Grapes .....	90.6	Lettuce.....	54.0	
Lemons.....	98.8	Plums .....	88.7	Cantaloupes.....	52.7	
Peaches.....	45.7	Green lima beans ..	45.7	Asparagus.....	51.7	
Avocados.....	91.8	Cauliflower.....	43.9	Pears.....	49.8	



- V. Farm prices of California's principal crops have, with relatively few exceptions, been increasing....

Crop	Average return to grower (per ton, unless otherwise noted)				
	1940	1945	1950	1955	1958
Apricots, canning	\$ 52.60	\$114.00	\$ 91.20	\$ 89.50	\$142.00
Asparagus	111.98	185.58	222.27	263.80	223.80
Cherries, fresh	141.00	282.00	272.00	311.00	482.00
Cotton lint <sup>1</sup>	11.97	22.12	41.25	33.08	33.60
Green peas, processing	37.70	74.00	76.20	70.90	71.00
Lettuce, winter <sup>2</sup>	1.40	2.70	3.10	2.38	2.59
Onions, late summer <sup>3</sup>	.65	3.10	1.80	2.20	2.14
Oranges, navel <sup>4</sup>	1.10	2.92	2.63	2.74	4.82
Peaches	19.10	69.40	66.00	78.50	62.90
Pears	25.90	79.90	74.82	74.50	84.80
Prunes, dried	55.00	210.00	245.00	277.00	370.00
Spinach, processing	17.30	26.70	25.40	22.80	22.70
Sugar beets	4.87	10.90	10.70	10.90	Not Available
Tomatoes, processing	12.60	25.60	23.50	22.80	22.70

1. Per 100 pounds
2. Per 70-pound crate
3. Per 100-pound sack
4. Per packed box

SOURCES: California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, "Prices Received by California Producers for Farm Commodities, 1909-1953," "Prices Received by California Producers for Farm Commodities, 1952-1955," California Field Crops Statistics, 1944-1957," "California Tree Fruits -- Production, Utilization and Average Returns to Growers, 1955-1958," and "Vegetable Crops in California, 1956-1958."

- VI. ...but the farmers' share of the consumer's food dollar has been shrinking, while the processors', packagers', and distributors' share has been going up.

Per family	United States totals			
	1947-1949		1959	
	Dollars	%	Dollars	%
Annual food purchases	\$940	100.0	\$1,035	100.0
Farm value	466	49.4	395	38.1
Marketing costs	474	50.6	640	61.9

SOURCE: California Farm Research and Legislative Committee, "Farm Facts and Figures," February, 1960.

- VII. Productivity has increased greatly in most crops.

Crop	Yield per acre <sup>1</sup>		Percent increase 1935 to 1956
	1935	1956	
Lettuce, summer	2.1	11.3	448.6%
Tomatoes, canning	4.2	18.0	328.6
Pears	2.9	10.9	275.8
Cherries	1.0	3.7	270.0
Almonds	.18	.66	211.1
Celery, late fall	7.5	21.8	190.7
Peaches, freestone	3.7	9.4	154.1
Plums	1.9	4.7	142.1
Peaches, cling	6.1	14.0	129.5
Field corn	3 <sup>a</sup>	7 <sup>a</sup>	121.0

1. Tons, unless otherwise indicated
- a. Bushels

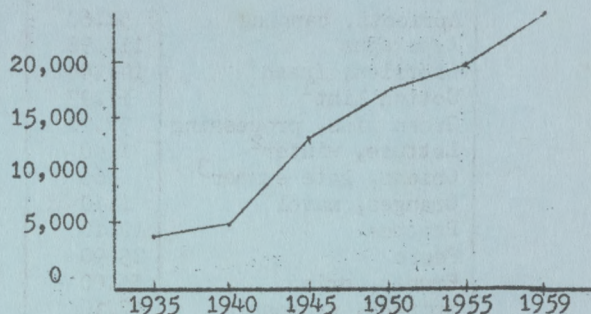
SOURCE: G. W. Dean and C. O. McCorkle, Jr., Trends for Major California Crops. University of California Agricultural Extension Service, Circular 488, 1960. (Adapted and arranged.)



VIII. Increases in productivity, farm prices, and acreage per farm have combined to produce a general increase in income per California farm.

A.

Year	Realized gross income per farm
1935	\$ 3,770
1940	4,900
1945	13,470
1950	16,849
1955	20,871
1959	24,274



SOURCES: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA, Cash Receipts from Farming, 1924-1944, Washington, D.C., January, 1946. Idem, "Cash Receipts and Value of Home Consumption, 1943-1950," n.p., n.d. Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, State Estimates of Farm Income, 1949-1959, Washington, D.C., August, 1960. McCorkle, op. cit., p. 7.

B. California's net income per farm is second only to Arizona's and more than three times the national average.

State	Realized net income per farm, 1959
Arizona	\$9,568
California	7,587
.....	...
Washington	2,661
Minnesota	2,655
Ohio	1,799
New Hampshire	1,500
Alabama	1,490
Tennessee	1,385
Virginia	1,384
South Carolina	1,365
West Virginia	811

SOURCE: Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA, op. cit.

Henry P. Anderson, Research Director, Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO.

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